

CLAIMS

1. A method for providing diversity handover, DHO, related instructions to a
5 first DHO tree node, e.g. a Node B, that is a part of or is planned to be a part of a DHO connection in a mobile telecommunication network, wherein the DHO functionality is distributed to one or a plurality of DHO nodes, such as a Radio Network Controller, RNC, and its connected Node Bs, in said network, the method is **characterised by** the steps of:
 - including in a first signaling message one or more transport layer addresses and one or more transport bearer reference parameters in order to direct one or more data flows of the DHO connection, and
 - sending said first signaling message to the first DHO tree node.
- 10 2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the including-step comprises the further step of:
 - replacing the transport layer address and transport bearer reference parameter of an RNC by the transport layer address and transport bearer reference parameter of a DHO tree node that is hierarchically higher than said first DHO tree node in a regular signaling message sent to the first
15 DHO tree node in order to direct a data flow between said first DHO tree node and said higher DHO tree node in the DHO tree node hierarchy
- 20 3. The method according to any of claims 1-2, wherein the including-step comprises the further step of:
 - including one or more transport layer addresses and one or more transport
25 bearer reference parameters of one or more DHO tree node(s) that are hierarchically lower than the first DHO tree node in a signalling message sent to the first DHO tree node in order to direct one or more data flows between said first DHO tree node and said one or more lower DHO tree node(s) in the DHO tree node hierarchy.

4. The method according to any of the claims 1-3, wherein said transport layer addresses are IP addresses and said transport bearer reference parameters are UDP ports.
5. The method according to any of the claims 1-3, wherein said transport layer addresses are ATM addresses and said transport bearer reference parameters are SUGR parameters.
6. The method according to any of claims 1-5, further comprising the step of:
 - including in the first signaling message Quality of Service (QoS) indications for the data flow(s) to be directed.
7. The method according to any of claims 1-6, further comprising the step of:
 - including timing parameters in the first signaling message to be used in the uplink combining procedure in the DHO tree node receiving said first signaling message.
8. The method according to any of claims 1-7, further comprising the step of:
 - including a time indication in the first signaling message indicating when the DHO related instructions in the first signaling message are to be effectuated in the DHO tree node receiving said first signaling message.
- 15 9. The method according to claim 8, wherein said time indication is a connection frame number, CFN, pertaining to a Dedicated Channel Frame Protocol, DCH FP, in a UMTS Terrestrial Radio Access Network, UTRAN.
10. The method according to any of claims 1-9, wherein said first signaling message is sent from a RNC.
11. The method according to claim 10, wherein said first signaling message is a Node B Application Part, NBAP, message.
- 20 12. The method according to any of claims 10 or 11, wherein the step of sending said first signaling message is triggered by a second signaling message received from a second RNC.
13. The method according to claim 12, wherein the second signaling message is a RNSAP message.

14. The method according to any of claims 12 or 13, wherein the second signaling message includes the same DHO related instructions and associated parameters as said first signaling message.
15. The method according to claim 14, wherein said second signaling message further comprises a destination node transport layer address of the first DHO tree node that is the intended recipient of said DHO related instructions.
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16. The method according to claim 15, wherein said destination node transport layer address is an IP address.
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17. The method according to claim 15, wherein said destination node transport layer address is an ATM address.
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18. The method according to any of the claims 1-17, wherein the mobile telecommunication network is a UMTS network.
19. The method according to any of claims 1-2, wherein the method comprises the further step of:
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 - using implicit information at the first DHO tree node in data received from a hierarchically lower DHO tree node to trigger the initiation of DHO functionality for a macro diversity leg towards the hierarchically lower DHO tree node, wherein said DHO functionality comprises splitting and combining of data flows.
20. The method according to claim 19, wherein said implicit information comprises a source IP addresses and a source UDP port retrieved from the IP header and the UDP header of a received uplink packet.
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21. The method according to claim 20, wherein said source IP address is different from the source IP addresses used for packets received from a hierarchically higher DHO tree node and other hierarchically lower DHO tree nodes than said hierarchically lower DHO tree node from which said uplink packet was received.
22. The method according to any of claims 20-21, wherein the method comprises the further step of:
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-using said retrieved source IP address and UDP port at the first DHO tree node as the destination IP address and destination UDP port for the split downlink data flow for said macro diversity leg towards said hierarchically lower DHO tree node.

5 23. The method according to any of claims 1-2 and 19-22, wherein the method comprises the further step of:

-terminating DHO functionality at the first DHO tree node for a macro diversity leg towards a hierarchically lower DHO tree node based on the absence of expected uplink data packets from the hierarchically lower DHO tree node.

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24. The method of any of claims 1-2 and 19-22, wherein the method comprises the further step of:

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-terminating DHO functionality at the first DHO tree node for a macro diversity leg towards a hierarchically lower DHO tree node based on the reception of an indication that said hierarchically lower DHO tree node no longer uses the macro diversity leg.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein said indication is a Destination Unreachable Internet Control Message Protocol, ICMP, message.

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26. A computer program product directly loadable into the internal memory of a computer within a Diversity Handover node such as a Radio Network Controller or a Node B, in a mobile telecommunication network, comprising the software code portions for performing the steps of any of claims 1-25.

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27. A computer program product stored on a computer usable medium, comprising a readable program for causing a computer, within a Diversity Handover node such as a Radio Network Controller or a Node B, in a mobile telecommunication network, to control an execution of the steps of any of the claims 1-25.

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28. A Radio Network Controller, RNC, for providing diversity handover, DHO, related instructions to a first DHO tree node, e.g. a Node B, that is a part of or is planned to be a part of a DHO connection in a mobile

telecommunication network, wherein the DHO functionality is distributed to one or a plurality of DHO nodes, such as a Radio Network Controller, RNC, and its connected Node Bs, in said network, the RNC is **characterised by** means for including in a first signaling message one or more transport layer addresses and one or more transport bearer reference parameters in order to direct one or more data flows of the DHO connection, and means for sending said first signaling message to the first DHO tree node.

29. The RNC according to claim 28, wherein the means for including comprises means for replacing the transport layer address and transport bearer

10 reference parameter of an RNC by the transport layer address and transport bearer reference parameter of a DHO tree node that is hierarchically higher than said first DHO tree node in a regular signaling message sent to the first DHO tree node in order to direct a data flow between said first DHO tree node and said higher DHO tree node in the

15 DHO tree node hierarchy.

30. The RNC according to any of claims 28-29, wherein the means for including comprises means for including one or more transport layer addresses and one or more transport bearer reference parameters of one or more DHO tree node(s) that are hierarchically lower than the first DHO tree node in a signalling message sent to the first DHO tree node in order to direct one or more data flows between said first DHO tree node and said one or more lower DHO tree node(s) in the DHO tree node hierarchy.

31. The RNC according to any of the claims 28-30, wherein said transport layer addresses are IP addresses and said transport bearer reference parameters are UDP ports.

25 32. The RNC according to any of the claims 28-30, wherein said transport layer addresses are ATM addresses and said transport bearer reference parameters are SUGR parameters.

33. The RNC according to any of claims 28-32, further comprising means for including in the first signaling message Quality of Service (QoS) indications for the data flow(s) to be directed.

34. The RNC according to any of claims 28-33, further comprising means for including timing parameters in the first signaling message to be used in the uplink combining procedure in the DHO tree node receiving said signaling message.

5 35. The RNC according to any of claims 28-34, further comprising means for including a time indication in the signaling message indicating when the DHO related instructions in the signalling message are to be effectuated in the DHO tree node receiving said first signaling message.

10 36. The RNC according to claim 35, wherein said time indication is a connection frame number, CFN, pertaining to a Dedicated Channel Frame Protocol, DCH FP, in a UMTS Terrestrial Radio Access Network, UTRAN.

37. The RNC according to any of claims 28-37, wherein said first signaling message is a Node B Application Part, NBAP, message.

15 38. The RNC according to any of claims 28-37, wherein the means for sending said first signaling message is triggered by a second signaling message received from a second RNC.

39. The RNC according to claim 38, wherein the second signaling message is a RNSAP message.

20 40. The RNC according to any of claims 38-39, wherein the second signaling message includes the same DHO related instructions and associated parameters as said first signaling message.

41. The RNC according to claim 40, wherein said second signaling message further comprises a destination node transport layer address of the first DHO tree node that is the intended recipient of said DHO related instructions.

25 42. The RNC according to claim 41, wherein said destination node transport layer address is an IP address.

43. The RNC according to claim 41, wherein said destination node transport layer address is an ATM address.

44. The RNC according to any of the claims 28-43, wherein the mobile telecommunication network is a UMTS network.

45. A Diversity Handover, DHO, node, e.g. a Node B, that is a part of or is planned to be a part of a DHO connection in a mobile telecommunication network, wherein the DHO functionality is distributed to one or a plurality of DHO nodes, such as a Radio Network Controller, RNC, and its connected Node Bs, in said network, the DHO node is **characterised by** means for using implicit information in data received from a hierarchically lower DHO tree node to trigger the initiation of DHO functionality for a macro diversity leg towards the hierarchically lower DHO tree node, wherein said DHO functionality comprises splitting and combining of data flows.

5 46. The DHO node according to claim 45, wherein said implicit information comprises a source IP addresses and a source UDP port retrieved from the IP header and the UDP header of a received uplink packet.

10 47. The DHO node according to claim 46, wherein said source IP address is different from the source IP addresses used for packets received from a hierarchically higher DHO tree node and other hierarchically lower DHO tree nodes than said hierarchically lower DHO tree node from which said uplink packet was received.

15 48. The DHO node according to any of claims 46-47, wherein the DHO node comprises the further means for using said retrieved source IP address and UDP port as the destination IP address and destination UDP port for the split downlink data flow for said macro diversity leg towards said hierarchically lower DHO tree node.

20 49. The DHO node according to any of claims 45-48, wherein the DHO node comprises the further means for terminating DHO functionality for a macro diversity leg towards a hierarchically lower DHO tree node based on the absence of expected uplink data packets from the hierarchically lower DHO tree node.

25 50. The DHO node of any of claims 45-48, wherein the DHO node comprises the further means for terminating DHO functionality for a macro diversity

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leg towards a hierarchically lower DHO tree node based on the reception of an indication that said hierarchically lower DHO tree node no longer uses the macro diversity leg.

51. The DHO node of claim 50, wherein said indication is a Destination Unreachable Internet Control Message Protocol, ICMP, message.